Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the Title, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a National Stage application of PCT/JP2004/010930, filed July 30, 2004, which claims priority from Japanese patent application JP 2003-324493, filed September 17, 2003. The entire contents of each of the aforementioned applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Amend the paragraph on page 19, lines 22-23, as follows:

(Fig. 19) A ~~partially fragmented perspective~~ sectional view conceptually showing the structure of an oxide superconducting wire having gaps remaining therein.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 27, and ending on page 21, line 18, as follows:

Referring to Figs. 1A and 1B, a superconducting cable 30 comprises cable cores 31, an adiabatic tube 38 and an anticorrosive layer 39. Each single-filamentary or multifilamentary stranded cable core 31 is inserted in a refrigerant passage 37 formed inside the adiabatic tube 38 and the anticorrosive layer 39. A refrigerant is circulated along the outer periphery of the cable core 31 in the refrigerant passage 37. The cable core 31 is constituted of a former (a plurality of copper strands) 32, a plurality of oxide superconducting wires 1a, kraft paper 35, another plurality of oxide superconducting wires 1b and insulating paper 34 successively from the inside. The tapelike oxide superconducting wires 1a and 1b are spirally wound on the outer periphery of the former 32 composed of a plurality of copper strands having an outer diameter of 20 mm, for example. The plurality of oxide superconducting wires 1a and the plurality of oxide superconducting wires 1b forming a laminated structure are insulated from each other through the kraft paper 35. In the lower layer of the plurality of oxide superconducting wires ~~1a~~ 1b, 13 oxide superconducting wires 1a are arranged at a pitch of 200 mm, for example. In the upper layer of the plurality of oxide superconducting wires 1b, 14 oxide superconducting wires 1a are arranged at a pitch of 200 mm, for example. Each

of the oxide superconducting wires 1a and 1b has a rectangular section of 0.21 mm by 4.1 mm, for example. The oxide superconducting wires 1b are externally covered with the insulating paper 34 formed by polypropylene laminated paper (PPLP(R)), for example.

Amend the paragraph on page 44, lines 11-12, as follows:

Fig. 19 is a ~~partially fragmented perspective~~ sectional view conceptually showing the structure of an oxide superconducting wire having gaps remaining therein.